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above, turning the edges of the rolls of clouds to buff. A passing Marsh Hawk tilted up catching the light so that his breast glowed a warm rufous. Coots grated, Mallards quacked, and Eared Grebes gave their soft *hoy-up, hoy-up*. The buffy clouds turned to a soft veiled salmon. Squad after squad of Crows flew over the lake till several hundred had gone to the roost. High in the sky a small band of Gulls straggled over. Then the bright sunset colors faded in the east to the dull soft pinks and blues presaging night. Our Pelicans would return no more; they had passed on to seek other waters.

(*To be continued*)

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Trumpeter Swan Breeding in Yellowstone Park.—During the past summer I found a nest of the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) on a low island in a lagoon northeast of Lewis Lake, Yellowstone National Park, containing five whitish eggs. Other signs of the swans were seen at various times during the summer. On September 6, 1919, I again visited this section and found five Trumpeter Swans (the two parents and three nearly grown young that were then large enough to fly well) in the lagoon and later flying and uttering their far-reaching calls.

In previous years I have seen Trumpeter Swans here and acting in such a way that I believed they were breeding, but I believe that this is the first authentic record for the Park.

Mr. H. M. Smith, Fish Commissioner, reports that on July 16, 1919, he visited a small, unnamed lake lying south of Delusion Lake, Yellowstone National Park, and found therein a pair of swans with six young about the size of teal and swimming actively. This was probably another family, as the two localities are eight miles apart in a direct line.—M. P. SKINNER, *Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, January 28, 1920*.

Bohemian Waxwing in Southeastern California.—On December 21, 1919, Mrs. Swarth and I were travelling between the Grand Canyon and Pasadena. At the little desert station of Danby, California, some fifty miles west of Needles, on the Santa Fe railroad, two Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombicilla garrula*) were seen. Although this is a sight identification, and from a train, I have no hesitancy in placing it on record, with certainty that the birds seen were Bohemian Waxwings and not the smaller Cedar Bird. The train stopped a few minutes at that point, and the birds were seen at quite close range from the observation platform. They were first noted flying past, and they lit in a cottonwood some twenty or thirty yards from the track. They were in plain sight, and their call notes were heard also. As I had but recently seen the species under most favorable conditions for observation (see p. 80), the bird's appearance in life was sufficiently fresh in my memory to enable me to feel certain regarding the minor differences distinguishing the Bohemian Waxwing from the Cedar Bird.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 7, 1920*.

Golden Eagle at Porterville, California.—On January 7, 1920, a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) flew down between two houses in the thickly settled part of Porterville, in an apparently exhausted condition. Two men happened along, and, taking hold of each wing, led it away for four blocks. It was placed in a large shed and then given to the writer. After several days it began to eat, and it now seems to be out of the stupor it was in at first. The only explanation I could make to account for its condition was that it might have been eating poisoned squirrels. It might, perhaps, have come in contact with an electric line, but the former explanation seems more apt to be correct.—L. W. HUDSON, *Porterville, California, January 16, 1920*.

Southerly Nesting Records of the Arctic Tern in Southeastern Alaska.—During the summer of 1915 numerous Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea* Brünnich) were observed

about Taku Inlet, southeastern Alaska, and in particular over the sand flats between salt water and the "dead" glacier (Norris Glacier) a couple of miles back. They were obviously breeding although one hasty search failed to locate either nests or young. The following year on May 29, 1916, on the summit of a small rock islet in a shallow glacial lake in front of Twin Glaciers, tributary to the lower Taku River, I found my first nest of the Arctic Tern, containing three eggs. The nest was in a protected place between small boulders and was made wholly of the lichens that are so common on the rocks and flats near the glaciers. On this same islet which is not more than eighty feet long and forty wide, were two nests of Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) and one of Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), and the remnants of a Scoter nest.

Later in the day a friend and myself in a couple hours search of the bare sand flats in front of Norris Glacier counted over fifty nests of the Arctic Tern, almost all of which contained two eggs although there were three nests of three and a few incomplete sets of one. No incubated sets were found. None of the sets were in any especially prepared nest other than a mere depression in the sand. A few were close between rocks of a foot or two in diameter but the majority were not closer than a rod or more to any rock larger than one's fist, or to any other landmark.

In July, 1916, at the Situk River, near Yakutat, and in 1917 again at the Situk and at the Alsek River, flowing into Dry Bay, Arctic Terns were common and obviously breeding although no nests or young birds were found in the very brief time available for search. The fishermen on the Situk stated that the Terns were nesting on the sparsely covered grass flats. On the Alsek they were undoubtedly nesting on the low flats, scarcely more than bars, where the gulls were nesting so abundantly.

On various occasions when about the Stikine River flats and in LeConte Bay, both near Wrangell, Arctic Terns have been seen and careful search will undoubtedly find them breeding in the vicinity. Apparently the most likely places for them in that locality are on the small unnamed island, locally called Cony Island, on the north side of the Stikine Dry Pass, near the entrance to LeConte Bay, and on the low shore at the right hand entrance to the Bay. It is also possible that they might be nesting on the nearly bare rocks some distance above salt water on the left hand shore near the LeConte Glacier. The finding of Arctic Terns nesting in this vicinity would be a record about one hundred and fifty miles farther south than my southerly record in the Taku Inlet.

Since preparing the above Mr. E. W. Nelson has called to my attention the article by Mr. Willett (CONDOR, XVI, 1914, page 75) of the supposed nesting of the Arctic Tern in the Taku Inlet.—ERNEST P. WALKER, *Phoenix, Arizona, January 2, 1920.*

Two Birds New to the Lower Colorado River Region.—While collecting in the Yuma valley on the California side of the Colorado River, during November and December, 1916, I collected the two following birds, which are worthy of record:

Lophodytes cucullatus. When crossing over a small bridge that spanned an irrigation canal about three miles north of Bard, Imperial County, California, on November 26, 1916, I flushed a duck that had been feeding in the partially drained canal. On shooting the bird it proved to be a Hooded Merganser. It is an adult female and is now number 820 of my collection.

Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri. On December 31, when starting out in the late afternoon to set my line of mouse traps, I noticed a Thrasher scratching on the shady side of a neighbor's wood pile. On collecting the bird I was surprised to find it to be a Palmer Thrasher. This is the first occurrence of the species in California. It is an adult female, taken three miles north of Bard, Imperial County, California, and is number 1020 of my collection.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, California, January 7, 1920.*

Red Crossbills at Berkeley, California.—On January 15, after several unsuccessful attempts to get a close view of the Crossbills which had been present in considerable numbers for a week, I happened upon a flock of eight or ten in an old almond orchard near my house. The trees were absolutely bare, but evidently some of the nuts had fallen to the ground and had escaped the small boys and the Bluejays. The Crossbills picked the almonds from the ground, flew up into the trees and noisily pried open the shells with their bills. After eating the kernels they dropped to the ground again to search for more.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Berkeley, California, February 6, 1920.*

Unusual Birds of My Garden.—The three closing months of the year 1919 have been memorable ones in the bird world in my garden. Never in my twenty-one years residence in Los Angeles, have I had so many species so early in the season. On October first a large flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) appeared in my pepper trees, several weeks earlier than usual. I am sure that I heard them a few days before this, also. On the 24th of October the first Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) arrived, to be soon followed by a large flock that is still here (January 7, 1920), eating pepper berries, drinking at my bird baths and singing the regular Robin song.

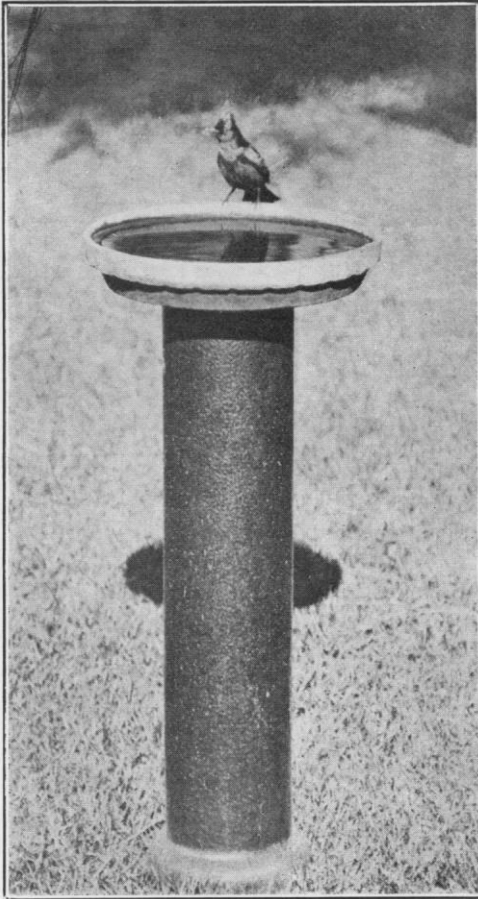


FIG. 13. MALE PHAIÑOPEPLA, PHOTOGRAPHED BY MRS. MYERS AT THE DRINKING BASIN IN HER YARD IN LOS ANGELES.

November 9, a Mountain Chickadee was about for a short time. The only other time that I have had one in the yard was two winters ago when, later in the year than the present time, one was about for two or three weeks. November 12, a Crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) was seen. This was not in my garden but a little farther up the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena (under California St. bridge); two of these birds were in my yard on January 13, 1920.

November 19 a Slender-billed Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*) rested on the elder tree, head downward, for about five minutes and scarcely budged when I came out on the porch near him.

On November 25 a male Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) appeared in the pepper trees and came to a drinking basin. December 7, and once a day or two later, a female of this species was about. I have not seen her since, but on the 9th the male was again seen and has been an almost daily visitor ever since (up to January 18, 1920), defying the Robins at the bird bath and withstanding the onslaughts of the meddlesome Mockers.

December 6 a Dusky Warbler (*Vermivora celata sordida*) visited my food shelf. On December 11 a flock of Purple Finches were first noticed in the yard. These birds are fond of the fallen pepper berries as well as the fruit buds. They are still here and usually stay until March, at least.

Besides the birds mentioned, almost daily visitors in my garden are the Plain Titmice, Wren-tits, Kinglets, Audubon Warblers (which are not so abundant as usual), a Spurred Towhee, Alaska Hermit Thrush, Gambel Sparrows, Black Phoebes, Anna Hummingbirds, Greenbacked Goldfinches, Willow Goldfinches, Mockingbirds, Linnets, Anthony Towhees, Song Sparrows, Bush-tits. Less frequent recent visitors are California Jays, Gnatcatchers, Chipping Sparrows, Flickers, California Woodpeckers (on posts along the walk), Willow Woodpeckers, Pasadena Thrasher, Valley Quail, and the despised English Sparrows.

For the last month the Waxwings have not been so much in evidence, although there are still plenty of pepper berries, which are their especial delight.—HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS, *Los Angeles, California, January 18, 1920.*

The Varied Thrush in Wyoming.—Mr. L. R. A. Condit, a well-known rancher of Barnum, Wyoming, has presented to the University of Colorado Museum an immature male Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius* or subspecies *meruloides*) taken at his ranch on Beaver Creek, near Barnum, at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains. I find no published record of this species for the state of Wyoming. Mr. Condit informs me that there were about twenty-five or thirty of the birds, of both sexes, presumably, from his account, all immature, and they remained about the ranch for over a week after November 9, 1919, when the specimen at hand was taken. This bird of the northwest has long been known as an occasional straggler into distant territory, seemingly having no regard at all for the artificial lines established by men to separate political subdivisions of the earth's surface. There is one record of a mature male for Boulder County, Colorado, and it has been recorded from Kansas, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, etc. Whether this is the true *naevius* or *meruloides* I should not dare say with the one specimen before me. The latter is said to nest in Montana and eastern Oregon. With these facts in mind, it is not surprising to find the birds in Wyoming, but its discovery there by Mr. Condit is one of many illustrations of additions to scientific knowledge due to the work and interest of observing laymen.—JUNUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, December 27, 1919.*

The Wood Ibis as a Winter Visitant to California.—The Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) has been noted in southern California only during the summer, so it seems desirable to put on record the presence of at least one small flock, numbering eleven individuals, in the vicinity of Calexico, Imperial County, during the last two days of November, 1919. I saw these birds twice (once close enough to make identification absolute) while they were flying over, and the manager of my ranch stated that he had seen the flock every few days during the past six weeks. As there had been considerable cold weather with some ice previous to this date, it is safe to presume that the birds were not merely laggards from the regular summer invasion of the species of the Colorado Valley. This flock was reported to have spent considerable time in the alfalfa fields, which were not being irrigated because of recent rains. I regard this information as coming from a reliable source, and although this species is not known to feed on grasshoppers, nor indeed on anything which they do not secure from the water, what else could they be doing in an alfalfa field? It is not many years since this valley was put under cultivation, and it has had a very marked effect in modifying the bird population. Although the winter nights are chilly, the days are decidedly warm, and it would not surprise me if the Wood Ibis, as well as other species that have heretofore been considered warm weather visitants, gradually decide to resort to this section throughout the year.—A. B. HOWELL, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1920.*

Gulls Following a Train.—It will be recalled that some years ago there appeared in THE CONDOR an article entitled "Goonies of the Desert" (Grinnell, CONDOR, x, 1908, p. 92), in which the actions of Ravens following a train were compared to those of seabirds in the wake of a steamer. The present writer recently was reminded of this comparison by circumstances comparable to, but still different from, either of those just mentioned. The Union Pacific Railroad for some years past has crossed Great Salt Lake on what is known as the "Ogden cut-off", partly a trestle and partly a fill, on which the track practically bisects the lake. On the afternoon of November 6, 1919, while I was sitting on the observation platform of the train as it started on this crossing, a number of gulls were seen gathering from all sides. They fell behind in just such a way as we are used to seeing them trail after the ferry boats crossing San Francisco Bay, and remained in attendance until the lake was crossed, a matter of some hours. The train travelled slowly and the birds had no difficulty in keeping abreast of it. Occasionally one lit on a telegraph pole for a few moments and then overtook us once more. None was seen to garner any edibles thrown overboard, but presumably they do reap a harvest of this sort at times. It was an odd combination—the attendance of these maritime birds upon this conveyance of the dry land.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 7, 1920.*

The Blue Goose as a Bird of California.—The first ascription of *Chen caerulescens* to California was made by Belding (Zoe, III, 1892, p. 97). The evidence given by Belding was as follows.

"Two of these geese were shot, one day, about February 1, of this year [1892], by two hunters who were hunting together near Stockton. Mr. M. J. Shaw of the game market kept one of them on exhibition as long as he could, and then saved the head and neck, wings and legs. These fragments were all that I saw of the bird, and these I sent to Mr. Ridgway for identification. He said it was a true *Chen caerulescens*—a juvenile."

Belding then goes on to say that it had been his belief "for nearly ten years" that he had "occasionally seen the plumage which is attributed to the adult, a few of which" he "shot, besides some" "seen in market . . .".

Belding is quoted (Fisher, Condor, xx, 1918, p. 56) as having stated many years later, probably subsequent to 1910, that he had "often hunted geese on Butte Creek and many times tried to get the Blue Goose (*caerulescens*) but never succeeded so far as to be satisfied with the result. Of two that" he "found in the Stockton market", he "sent wings and feet to Mr. Ridgway, who identified the fragments as of *caerulescens*." This statement, it will be seen, corroborates in the main the earlier one.

Cooke (U. S. Biol. Survey bull. 26, 1906, p. 68) gave Belding's Stockton record full recognition, and considered it "apparently the only record west of the Rocky Mountains." Several other authorities at about the same time likewise took this record at face value.

But Swarth (Condor, xv, 1913, p. 43) was inclined to consider the evidence of the occurrence of the Blue Goose in California "rather weak" and goes on to point out, on the basis of a recent case in point, how the young of the Lesser Snow Goose might be misidentified as of the Blue Goose. Grinnell (Pac. Coast Avif. no. 11, 1915, p. 177) follows Swarth, and he places the Blue Goose as a bird of California in his "hypothetical list" on the ground that Belding's "record seems open to question, more particularly because of absence of confirmation". And Grinnell, Bryant and Storer (Game Birds Calif., 1918, p. 211) dispose of the case rather summarily under "Lesser Snow Goose".

Now comes fresh evidence, which seems to provide the needed "confirmation": On December 15, 1910, a hunter by the name of Bud Watson killed a "pinto" goose on the King Ranch, eight miles west of Gridley, Butte County. The bird passed into the possession of Dr. Lemuel P. Adams, of Oakland, and was mounted for him by W. H. Hall, a taxidermist of that city. It remained in the possession of Dr. Adams until December, 1919, when it was presented by him to the Oakland Public Museum. The Director of that Museum, Mr. John Rowley, notified an officer of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of this important acquisition, suggesting that his identification of the bird as a Blue Goose might need verification. Accordingly, on January 13, 1920, J. Eugene Law and J. Grinnell, carrying with them an Eastern-taken specimen of *Chen caerulescens*, visited the Oakland Public Museum, and satisfied themselves of the correctness of the determination as originally made by Mr. Rowley. The two specimens proved identical in all essential points. Through the courtesy of Mr. Rowley, first published record is now made of this bird, which is number 10/1446 in the collection of the Oakland Public Museum, where it is open to examination at any time. The present writer has further communicated with Dr. Adams, who verifies the details of capture as just given.

The upshot of the matter is, then, that the Blue Goose *has* occurred in California. The probabilities now are strong that Ridgway's identification of Belding's "fragments" was correct, and further, that the latter's impressions of having observed the species in California on more than one occasion are worthy of being taken into account.

The status of the Blue Goose in California seems, therefore, to be as follows: Rare winter visitant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. Recorded definitely twice, by Belding (loc. cit.) from the vicinity of Stockton, about February 1, 1892; and by Grinnell (present instance) from vicinity of Gridley, Butte County, December 15, 1910.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, January 15, 1920.*

Black and White Warbler at Carpinteria, California.—I wish to report the occurrence at Carpinteria, on January 9, 1920, of the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta*

varia). The bird was observed continuously from 8:45 to 9:30 A. M., at a distance of from six to thirty feet. The entire time was spent hunting over the bark of the larger limbs and trunk of a live oak. At the end of the forty-five minutes it flew to another oak about one hundred feet away. Mr. Ralph Hoffman also saw the bird and can vouch for my identification.—H. C. HENDERSON, *Carpinteria, California, January 27, 1920.*

A Swan Hunt.—Hunters reported that Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were coming in on the Sweetwater Reservoir again. A few were there last winter. Mr. Toms arranged with the caretaker to take us out to try to get a specimen to mount for the Natural History Museum, and we drove out to the reservoir December 10, 1919. The reservoir at its present stage is about a quarter of a mile wide and a mile and a half long. We first saw three swans standing on the shore. The field glasses showed that they were all young of the year so we passed on. Half a mile farther on were two bunches, five and six respectively, some of each bunch being adult. The five were on shore at the head of a bay and appeared to offer the best chance for a shot. They flushed before we got into the bay and passed by at such long range that we failed to reach them. All the swans in the reservoir promptly left for San Diego Bay and we turned back for the landing at the dam. On the way we looked over the ducks in sight to see if there were any not represented in the Museum's collection, but saw nothing I wanted except two Canvasbacks, which we collected.

On arrival at the landing the caretaker's helper asked if we had seen the flock of twenty-three swans that had just passed over, going up the reservoir. We had been so busy looking at the ducks that we had not seen the swans pass high overhead, so we ate our lunch and started after them. We found them swimming about on the upper part of the reservoir. The caretaker landed Mr. Toms and me on a rocky point where a few square yards of tules grew at the edge of the water, and then rowed across the reservoir and up the far side in an attempt to get around the swans and drive them to us. They flushed and flew past out of range, and lit again a quarter of a mile down the lake. The caretaker succeeded in getting past them this time and turned the flock toward us. He worked very slowly and at one time the whole bunch stopped swimming and went to sleep, heads down, but a slight advance of the boat awoke them and started them swimming toward us. Occasionally we could hear a low goose-like honk. I have never heard of this talking habit. The actions in general were very like those of geese. The swans were too suspicious to come close to the tules but swam past in line at long range. We fired with buckshot and got one. It was not fully mature but was a very nice bird. Weight fourteen and a half pounds, in rather thin flesh. The stomach was full of large seeds or small bulbs with sprouts half an inch to an inch long. Mr. Toms suggested that they might be grains of rice eaten in the Sacramento Valley and not yet digested, but the grains looked too large for rice. Later, these "grains" were identified at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, as tubers of sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), an abundant freshwater plant in most marshes of California.

A female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) came to decoys on the Lower Otay Reservoir. San Diego County, December 7, 1919. The hunter did not know what it was and brought it to us.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, December 20, 1919.*

A Large Flock of Swans Wintering at Santa Barbara.—In the middle of November, about a dozen Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were observed on a small pond on the Hope Ranch in Santa Barbara. On December 24 their number had increased to forty-four. The pond is protected and is the resort for hundreds of water-fowl.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California, December 29, 1919.*

Is the Swan Increasing in Numbers?—Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) may be seen during the winter in flocks of considerable size at suitable spots in the central part of the state, but there are few places in the more southern sections where they are now considered at all common. Small flocks are sometimes encountered where the surroundings are congenial, and slightly larger ones linger for short periods at such places as Warner's Ranch, in the mountains of San Diego County. Swans occur off the coast, as well, coming inland at night to feed, but, on the whole, a southern hunter considers

the fact worth telling about if he has encountered more than a half dozen birds together, and during ten years of field work, I have never seen more than ten at one time. Hence, it was with considerable excitement that I found a flock of a hundred and fifty-one of these birds and a lone goose (presumably *Branta canadensis canadensis*) making themselves at home in Crane Lake, which is situated at the upper end of Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. I examined them for some time through ten power glasses while most of them were within a hundred and fifty yards of me and the public road. Although automobiles were passing continually, the swans were unconcerned, and while a small company was sleeping on the shore, the head and one foot of each tucked out of sight, others were standing on their heads in the shallow water, or indulging in violent altercations, craning their necks to the fullest extent, rushing at each other and making a great racket. Still others were swimming about with necks curved into the characteristic posture. The scene called to mind accounts of the abundance of game in the old days and was a sight that I never expected to witness.—A. B. HOWELL, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1920.*

Unusual Conditions for Southern California.—The closing months of the year 1919 have proven of especial interest to bird students in southern California because of the greater or less displacement of a number of species of birds from their average fall and winter ranges. It is to be hoped that all who have noted such unusual conditions will record their observations so that some more comprehensive view of the situation as a whole may be attained. The following notes are offered as a contribution toward this larger view.

On August 29, a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) in summer plumage came to the fig tree in my yard in the city of Los Angeles. The bird was twice seen and later secured. It uttered the typical call note of the species and seemed not at all shy. The specimen was submitted to the editors of THE CONDOR and was referred by them to the subspecies *rubra*. The only other record of the subspecies for the state was from the same locality in March of the same year (Condor, xxi, 1919, p. 129).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was noted on August 29 and on later dates among the sycamores in the Arroyo Seco within the city limits. The Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*) again spends the winter in the city. California Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*) were early in arrival and were unusually abundant in numbers. Sierra Red Crossbills were seen but will be recorded by others who took specimens. There have moved down from the Transition Zone, probably of the adjacent mountains, a number of Mountain Chickadees (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*), and a colony of Blue-fronted Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) both of which species have been in the vicinity for some months. Two specimens of the latter species were taken from a group of five seen at one time.

Finally, on December 22, an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) was taken just outside the city limits near my place. The specimen is the darkest I have ever seen. It was feeding on an open hillside where some scrubby cascara and elder bushes chanced to be growing. It was very fat and the crop was filled with the shelled kernels of cascara seeds.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, January 20, 1920.*

Notes From the Region of Lake Tahoe.—At Grass Lake in Glen Alpine Canyon, this summer, I took a specimen of the Sierra Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*) which had in its crop two pupae of some lepidopterous species. The pupae were more than ten millimeters in length so could not well have been taken as a mere accompaniment of other food. I had supposed the crossbill limited in its diet to the seeds of coniferous trees.

The distribution of *Leucosticte* is so consistently given as above timber line, that I felt some surprise at finding a family of the Dawson Leucosticte (*L. tephrocotis dawsoni*) at an elevation of only 7800 feet, just below Lake Lucile (see Pyramid Peak quadrangle). Abundant timber is found above that point in the immediate vicinity, and two juvenals were taken from a small tamarack pine within fifty yards of where an adult

was found feeding about a small snow bank. There was strong suggestion that the three birds constituted part of a family reared in the immediate vicinity. The date was July 15, 1919.

I was surprised also to find on two occasions the Western Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea obscura*) at timber line on Mount Tallac. Nine thousand feet is pretty well up for this species, commonly considered Sonoran.

I was further interested to obtain a specimen of the Western Redtail (*Buteo borealis calurus*) in the timber of a deep canyon, and to find in its crop the remains of a full grown Douglas Chickaree (*Sciurus douglasi albolimbatus*). The Chickaree is seldom seen in the open. He is almost limited to the denser timber. My concept of the Red-tailed Hawk was that he is a plainsman—a bird of the open country feeding upon the ground squirrel and the jack rabbit. To take the Douglas Chickaree must have required a quickness of wing action not generally conceded to this rather heavy hawk.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, January 26, 1920.*

Some Winter Birds at the Grand Canyon, Arizona.—Although the Grand Canyon is visited each year by thousands of sight-seers, there has been almost nothing published about the birds of that region. This may be, perhaps, because of the all engrossing scenic attractions, causing even the most confirmed bird lover to abandon his hobby for the time being, or because of the relative scarcity of bird life. However that may be, there seems to have been but one paper published upon this subject, a "List of birds noted at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Arizona, September 10 to 15, 1889", by C. Hart Merriam (U. S. Dept. Agric., North American Fauna no. 3, 1890, pp. 38-41).

The present authors spent three days at the Grand Canyon, December 18-20, 1919. Although our time was short we covered as much ground and of as great variety as could well be done in that period. We arrived early in the morning of the 18th. That afternoon, through the courtesy of Mr. W. F. Peters, Acting Superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park, we were enabled to join a party he was conducting into the Canyon. We descended the Hermit's Rest Trail to Hermit's Rest Camp, where we spent the night. The next day we rode some nineteen miles up the Canyon on the Tonto Trail, to the junction of the latter with the Bright Angel Trail, by which we returned to El Tovar. Our last day was devoted to walks along the rim.

Early in the morning of the 18th there had been a rainstorm, but before noon the sky cleared and it remained clear during the rest of our stay. On the rim the temperature fell below freezing at night, but the snow melted in the sun during the day. The air was appreciably warmer down in the Canyon. There was considerable snow on the ground on the rim, and extending downward into the Canyon over the first mile or so of the trail.

Astur atricapillus atricapillus. Eastern Goshawk. An adult bird seen December 18, at close range, at the rim of the Canyon near the Hermit's Rest Trail.

Dryobates villosus leucothorectis. White-breasted Woodpecker. A single bird, observed near El Tovar Hotel, December 20.

Dryobates scalaris cactophilus. Cactus Woodpecker. A woodpecker was seen December 19 on the Tonto Trail, about midway between Hermit's Rest Camp and the Bright Angel Trail, flying from one agave stalk to another. The surroundings and the appearance of the bird were both so strongly indicative of this species, that although this is no more than a "sight identification", I have no doubt as to its accuracy. There is a record from a point still farther northwest in Arizona: confluence of Beaverdam Creek and the Virgin River (Fisher, N. Am. Fauna, no. 7, 1893, p. 47).

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. Two or more seen and heard near El Tovar Hotel.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata. Long-crested Jay. Seen at various points along the rim between El Tovar Hotel and the Hermit's Rest Trail.

Aphelocoma woodhousei. Woodhouse Jay. Not as numerous as the last mentioned species, or at any rate not so conspicuous. Not more than three or four observed.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clarke Nutcracker. While not abundant, some individuals of this species could be seen about the hotel and other buildings at any time.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Pinyon Jay. Seen and heard at various points

along the rim; one bird noted on the Hermit's Rest Trail about a thousand feet below the rim. There was a large flock (we estimated its size at two hundred at least) feeding about some stables not far from the hotel, and these birds were so tame as to permit observation at very close range.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. Fairly abundant about the hotels and other buildings at the railroad terminus. Not seen elsewhere.

Spinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Seen at several points along the rim; not more than eight or ten all told.

Junco hyemalis hyemalis. Slate-colored Junco. One male bird seen December 20 in a flock of black-headed juncos. It was observed at close range with field glasses.

Junco oreganus shufeldti. Shufeldt Junco. Black-headed juncos of the *oreganus* type were fairly numerous in the woods along the rim of the Canyon. Presumably they were mostly of this subspecies, which is a common winter visitant throughout the state.

Bombycilla garrula. Bohemian Waxwing. As we stepped from El Tovar Hotel the morning of our arrival, December 18, almost the first thing encountered was a flock of these birds. Our attention was first attracted by the hissing call-note, and a moment later a flock of fifteen Bohemian Waxwings swept past. They disappeared for a few minutes, but came in sight again a little later and settled in a juniper nearby. There they set to work gorging themselves upon mistletoe berries, quite unmindful of our presence. We approached cautiously until we were almost directly under the tree. Then some of the birds, moving about, came still nearer, until there were several within six or eight feet. We were close enough to all in the flock to be able to distinguish the waxen tips to the secondaries, as well as the distinctive chestnut-colored under tail coverts and the white or yellow wing markings. We watched them for ten minutes or more, when something startled them and they left.

There has been no record of the observation of the Bohemian Waxwing in Arizona since Cooper secured the one and only specimen taken in the state up to the present time. That was at Fort Mohave, January 10, 1861 (Cooper, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., II, 1861, p. 122). Considering the small amount of field work that has been done in northern Arizona, especially in winter, it may well be that this species is of relatively frequent occurrence there during the winter months.

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus. Rock Wren. Ten or twelve seen all told. Observed at Hermit's Rest Camp, along the Tonto Trail, and on the rim.

Catherpes mexicanus conspersus. Canyon Wren. One seen at Hermit's Rest Camp and two or three more along the Tonto Trail. The call note was heard constantly when the birds were encountered, but the loud song was not given at any time.

Sitta carolinensis nelsoni. Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. Several seen in the timber along the rim.

Sitta pygmaea pygmaea. Pigmy Nuthatch. Seen in the timber on the rim. No large flocks were encountered, not more than three or four individuals together.

Baeolophus inornatus griseus. Gray Titmouse. Four pairs seen in the woods within a mile of El Tovar Hotel. Titmouse call-notes were heard at several points along the Tonto Trail, down in the Canyon, but the birds were not seen.

Penthestes gambeli gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. More common than the last mentioned species. A number were seen near the hotel, and others at various points along the rim.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. A single Robin was seen at the Indian Gardens, near the junction of the Tonto and Bright Angel trails.—H. S. SWARTH and WINIFERN W. SWARTH, Berkeley, California, February 7, 1920.

An Albino Brown Towhee.—An albino Brown Towhee (*Pipilo crissalis carolae*) was observed January 27, 1920, on Rocky Hill, just two miles east of Porterville, California. It was with others of the same species, one of the most numerous birds to be found there.

On the same day and near the same place an adult White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) was seen. The thickly wooded bottom lands of the Tule River are nearby, no doubt accounting for the presence of this bird in this particular place. They are occasionally seen there and are called by the cattle men "devil hawks".—L. W. HUDSON, Porterville, California, January 30, 1920.